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柔ノおとこ 1
鳥人ヒロミ
新書館

SHINSHOKAN

明治大正、大衆文化に華やかれど硬派男児が男よりも力の時代、[illegible]の「オトコ」と協力して男物専門店「SUOH」を開店するが、なかなか思うようにいかない。さらに、蘇芳が[illegible]に興味を示してきたり、[illegible]

FROM 2002 SPRING

TORIBITO

Dear+COMICS086/SHINSHOKAN

彩おとこ1 [いろおとこ1] /鳥人ヒロミ

HIROMI TORIBITO PRESENTS

彩おとこ

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其之壱

彩おとこ

Asakusa District
HELP!
HELP ME!
WHAT?
I BEG YOU, BANDITS ARE ATTACKING HIM
OH, A SOLDIER!
GUNSHOT!

HE'S THE RED DEMON!
SHIT!
T-HUD
T-HUD
T-HUD
EH... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

*NOTE: AN-CHAN=OLDER BROTHER

..I ADMIT THAT I MISPOKE, BUT REMEMBER THAT THERE MAY NOT BE ANOTHER TIME-
CALM DOWN. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
AND BOTH OF YOU, SINCE YOU'RE GUYS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD USE YOUR FISTS MORE?
I TOTALLY AGREE! RIGHT, AI!
--I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU TOO
OOPS! MY FOOT KICKED AUTOMATICALLY BY ITSELF!

...I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN JAPAN
MY NAME IS SHINOBU GODOH
THANK YOU, MR SOLDIER HUH? BUT I KNOW YOU
YOU'RE THE FAMOUS FOREIGNER OF THE LAND ARMY, AREN'T YOU?
"EN ATTENDANT GODOT"?
No... it's a title of a play, if I'm not mistaken. I didn't mean anything by it.
Don't worry!
WHAT?

*NOTE "EN ATTENDANT GODOT" WAITING FOR GODOT" IS IN REALITY A FRENCH PLAY OF 1953

Embrace me!
So handsome! Sober and refined! Totally my type! Who said he was evil-looking!?
Gasp!
Wow! It's the first time I've seen him up close.
YOU... DO YOU LIVE NEAR HERE? I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE.
NO, I'M ONLY DOING A VOLUNTARY PATROL TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS LIVELY AND QUITE UNSAFE NEIGHBORHOOD—
In a theater...is he an actor?
This face rings a bell...
STROLLING IS FINE BUT I HAVE TO BE ALERT TOO
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WITH SUCH A FLASHY KIMONO... ARE YOU AN ACTOR OR WHAT?

HE'S MY YOUNGER BROTHER AI.
I'M ISHIKAWA SUOH.
WE'RE COMING FROM NIHON-BASHI.
THEN ISHIKAWA,
WITHOUT SPEAKING OF YOUR FACE DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO AVOID WEARING A WOMAN'S KIMONO!
BUT IT'S A REAL MAN'S KIMONO!
I DESIGNED IT MYSELF
YOU CAN'T REALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING ATTACKED BY BANDITS!
WE'LL BE OPENING A SHOP IN THIS PART OF THE SIXTH DISTRICT SOON A MEN'S SHOP
SO HE'S NOT AN ACTOR
THEN WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE?
SUB-LIEUTENANT! I'LL OFFER YOU SOME CLOTHES,
TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME
I'M A SUB-LIEUTENANT.
BY THE WAY, MR. SOLDIER!

AN-CHAN, WE'RE ONLY LOOKING FOR MODELS, AREN'T WE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH A SOLDIER!
What will Chyh-ru say!
DON'T WORRY WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH OF THEM.
MODELS?
THEY'LL WALK THROUGH YOSHIMURA WEARING SOME OF OUR CLOTHES
IDIOTS! A SOLDIER CAN'T DO SUCH MONKEY TRICKS!
Ow!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT,
I JUST WANT YOU TO WEAR OUR CLOTHES.
YES, I'VE GOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED!
I'VE ORDERED A VERY LARGE KIMONO FOR OUR SHOP'S DISPLAY!
IT'S MADE WITH BLACK FABRIC ADORNED WITH DEMONS AND PEONIES. IT WILL SUIT YOU, I'M CERTAIN OF IT!

You are, Arr-chan
who's the oldest?
who's the boss?
Chyeh-rrr will be mad
Arr-chan, you keep saying it isn't for sale If you allow yourself too many things,
COME ON, PLEASE COME WITH US IT'S VERY CLOSE
WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS
I've said that my "handsome soldier" period is over, but...
WHAT A GUY! HE'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HAVING ME FOLLOW HIM AND HE ISN'T EVEN SCARED OF ME EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUR FIRST MEETING!
THIS MEANS THAT THE SERVICES TO THE CHURCH HAVE FINALLY YIELDED SOME RESULTS!
NO! I'VE ONLY GOT 2 GOALS IN THIS NEW LIFE! TO BE SUCCESS-FUL AND
AND TO GET RID OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER CHYOH!
HOLD ON!

To be honest, I can't stand this type of guy... weak and spineless! Exactly like the bad youngsters nowadays
No, I shouldn't! I must get used to these types of people too!
DON'T SAY THAT, COME ON!
HAVE A LOOK, HUH?
IT'S REALLY NOTHING AT ALL
HELPING A CIVILIAN COMES NATURALLY TO A SOLDIER!
SUOH...
OKAY THEN, JUST FOR A LITTLE-
And anyway it's not often you meet someone so kind
REALLY!?
Chyohyi!
I've brought back a very beautiful man!
Don't call me like that!

Chatter
Chatter
BOSS, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO HIRE A SOLDIER!
A foreign officer of the land army!?
The Red Demon!
WHAT IS THIS?
He won't listen to you!
THIS?
I'VE EVEN IMPORTED SOME SOME FOREIGN FABRICS. ON THE CONTRARY, THIS IS A WESTERN DESIGN MADE WITH JAPANESE FABRIC
I'VE ALSO ASSEMBLED A PACK OF ACCESSORIES TO COMPLIMENT THEM.
IT'S COOL, ISN'T IT?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO INTRODUCE SOME WESTERN ELEMENTS
WHY DID YOU BRING BACK SUCH A GUY!
Because he saved us when we were attacked

YOU CALL THIS MEN'S WEAR?
I keep telling you that this is men's wear! Do you still not understand?
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU WANT MEN TO WEAR THIS GIRLY STUFF!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH A MAN WEARING BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES?
WEAKLINGS!
TWITCH
A MAN DOESN'T NEED TO BE BEAUTIFUL!
ONLY STRENGTH COUNTS!
DOOM
SHIT, HE'S UTTERING THE FORBIDDEN WORDS ONE AFTER THE OTHER!
AI, HELP ME STOP THEM!

YOU'VE GOT A REALLY HANDSOME FACE, BUT IN FACT WHAT YOU SAY SHOWS THAT YOU'RE THE PERSONIFICATION OF RUDENESS! YOU IMPOTENT-
BIG BROTHER!
WH...
AN-CHAN, STOP THAT!
DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY THE SHOP BEFORE IT OPENS?
YOU'RE SUCH A STIFF CAVEMAN!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, TAKE OFF YOUR UNIFORM AND WEAR A SUMAKI INSTEAD!

NOTE: A SUMUKI IS A KIMONO THAT MAN WEARS AT HOME

THE "RED DEMON"?
"THE RED DEMON OF THE OUTSIDE THE BLACK DEMON OF THE INSIDE." HE'S ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MEN AROUND
THE RED-HAIRED GRAY-EYED SUB-LIEUTENANT GODOH IS A SERIOUS MAN WHO IS IMPECCABLY HONEST.
HE'S ON PATROL IN YOSHIWARA, BUT SINCE HE'S INCORRUPTIBLE HE'S SCARIER THAN EVEN A POLICEMAN
HE'S OFTEN AROUND HIS SUPERIORS AND HE NEVER CHASES AFTER WOMEN
HE LIKES MEN?
NO ONE'S CERTAIN, BECAUSE HE'S SO SERIOUS.
BUT THERE IS A RUMOUR THAT HE'S IMPOTENT.
GLARE
Tchck
EXCUSE ME, BUT I MUST GO!
OOPS!
OH!

BE...
COULD YOU BE MY LITTLE RED-HAIRED...?
FORGIVE ME, I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT YOU
HUH?
I WAS SURE OF IT! TELL ME, HOW ARE YOU? YOU'VE GROWN A LOT!!
MRS. BENIMARU!?
What's happening?
HOW COULD I FORGET A CHILD WHO ATTRACTED SUCH ATTENTION AS MUCH AS YOU?
BUT YOU RECOGNIZED ME TOO!
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

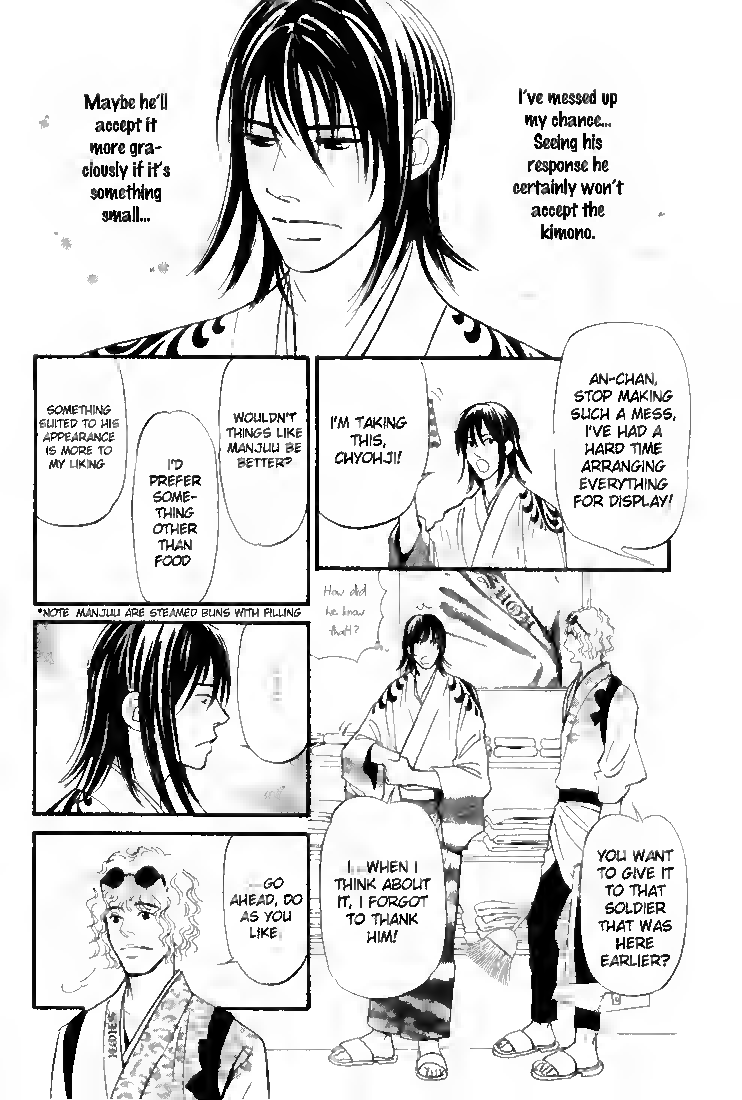
PISSED
He he smiled!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PHOTO-GRAPH... I'VE TAKEN GREAT CARE OF IT
KEEP YOUR DIS-TANCE FROM MY MOTHER!
GOODBYE!
Come and see us again, my dear!
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
A little Hi, Hi, Ha! ♡
.....
Mom!

IT SEEMS LIKE THE BOSS IS QUITE A SPECIAL MAN
We've just had the chance to see some drag race!
A BEAUTIFUL MAN WHO'S FREQUENTLY MISTAKEN FOR A WOMAN AND WHO PICKS FIGHTS WITH SOLDIERS
YES
HOWEVER IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SUCH AN INTIMIDATING MAN BEING CALLED HANDSOME!
AND WHO'S THE "BLACK DEMON OF THE INSIDE"?
The one you talked about before!
THE "SANKIROH'S" GORILLA IN YOSHIHARA WHO IS CALLED IWAGO
HE'S A GIANT TOO, BUT HE'S SAID TO BE A HANDSOME MAN, INSENSIBLE AND BISEXUAL
AND SINCE HE'S DARK-SKINNED, ALMOST LIKE HE COMES FROM THE SOUTH, HE'S CALLED THE "BLACK DEMON"
Iwago...
YOU SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS OF HIM
And this subject first!
I MUST DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM AN-CHAN
HUH, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU TOO!

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED TODAY
EVEN IN THE FARTHEST REGION OF MY MIND, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE MRS BENIMARU AGAIN...
陸軍歩兵第一連隊

I understand, he was Mrs Benimaru's son..
IT REALLY WAS THE FIRST TIME,
SOMEONE DARED SAY SUCH THINGS TO MY FACE.

"YOU CAN'T DESIRE THE WIFE OF A FRIEND..."
"COME AND SEE US AGAIN, MY DEAR!"
HUH... BUT THAT SHOP...


Maybe he'll accept it more graciously if it's something small...
I've messed up my chance... Seeing his response he certainly won't accept the kimono.
AN-CHAN, STOP MAKING SUCH A MESS. I'VE HAD A HARD TIME ARRANGING EVERYTHING FOR DISPLAY!
I'M TAKING THIS, CHYOHJI!
WOULDN'T THINGS LIKE MANJUU BE BETTER?
I'D PREFER SOMETHING OTHER THAN FOOD
SOMETHING SUITED TO HIS APPEARANCE IS MORE TO MY LIKING
*NOTE MANJUU ARE STEAMED BUNS WITH FILLING
How did he know that?
YOU WANT TO GIVE IT TO THAT SOLDIER THAT WAS HERE EARLIER?
I... WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I FORGOT TO THANK HIM!
...GO AHEAD, DO AS YOU LIKE
©LOVE

WITH ALL THE PRELIMINARY STEPS WE HAD TO MAKE, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GIVE THE AD TO THE MAGAZINE
SHE SAYS THAT YOU'RE MORE BENIMARU LOOKING NOW THAN SHE IS
IF WE MANAGE TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF YOSHIHARA'S FORMER CUSTOMER'S AND WORKER'S, WE'VE WON
WE CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF WORD OF MOUTH.
WHY NOT? IT LOOKS GREAT, DOESN'T IT?
SO WE'LL REALLY BE DISPLAYING THAT?
WHY DIDN'T MOTHER USE HER OWN PICTURE?
I know No need to repeat it everytime
IF YOU HAD OBEDIENTLY AGREED TO SELL WOMEN'S WEAR, WE WOULDN'T HAVE SO MANY WORRIES...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO SELL MEN'S WEAR!
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, I KNOW!
I'VE STATED THAT CLEARLY TO AI AND THE OTHERS SO DON'T WORRY!
Calm down, there's no need to worry
EVEN IF IT'S AN ARISTOCRAT WHO WANTS TO BUY IT!
OH AND THAT! DON'T EVER SELL IT!

BOSS, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND HAVE DINNER.
YEP!
HOW IS IT GOING?
EVEN IF THERE ARE DISCOUNTS FOR THE SHOP'S OPENING, THE ORIGINAL PRICES ARE STILL QUITE HIGH.
MOST OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE YOUNGSTERS WHO KEEP THEIR WALLETS TIGHT.
A small gift. Take it!

SHIT! WHY CAN'T A RICH CUM-STOMER ..
NIHONBASHI'S REGULARS DON'T SEEM TO LIKE YOU. MAYBE IF A GENEROUS PERSON CAME HERE TO DO SOME MAJOR SHOPPING,
THE NEWS WOULD SPREAD AND BUSINESS WOULD FINALLY PICK UP
whisper whisper
KARAN
chatter
It's Iwago!
whisper whisper
Yoshiwara's "Black Demon"!
Iwago?
THIS IS IT,
THE SHOP EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT!
SO HE'S THE ONE...

HUH!
ISN'T THAT BENI-MARU?
WHO?
SHE WAS A GEISHA FROM OUR AREA, SANKIROH.
WE STILL HAVE SOME PICTURES OF HER.
HEY, AM I WRONG?
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT THE PERSON IN THIS PICTURE IS THE SHOP'S DIRECTOR, SIR
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY,
SHE WAS BOUGHT BY A DRAPER FROM NIHONBASHI OR KYOBASHI
IT'S A MAN, RIGHT?

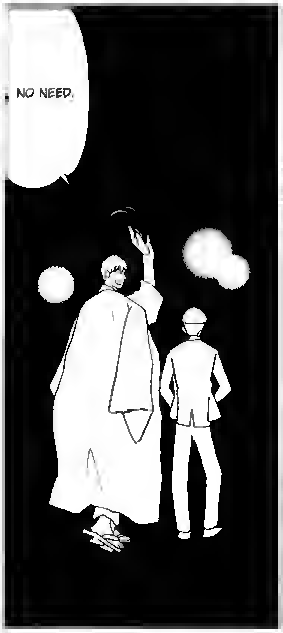
HENCE THE SHOP'S NAME, 'SUOH' I SEE
SUOH
HIS NAME?
YOU CAN ORDER THEM THE WESTERN CLOTHES TOO!
REALLY, ALL THESE CLOTHES ARE SO GAUDY
BUT THEY SEEM A LITTLE TOO SMALL FOR ME, I CAN'T WEAR THEM
OH?

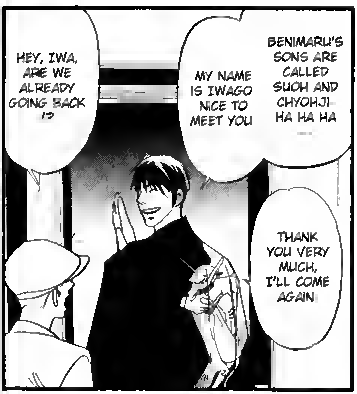
I LIKE IT A LOT.
Oh, Noe
THIS ONE, CAN I TRY IT?
THIS ONE IS NOT FOR SALE AND.
I JUST WANT TO TRY IT
I CAN, CAN'T I?
impressed

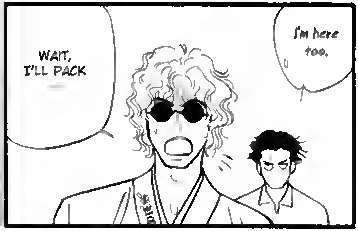
WAIT A MINUTE... IF SUCH A CHARISMATIC MAN BECOMES A CUSTOMER, IT WILL BE AN AMAZING ADVERTISEMENT
TUG
HOW MUCH IS IT ?
HUH, I TOLD YOU, IT IS NOT FOR SELL..
DON'T BE STUPID, YOUNG MAN
A KIMONO IS MADE TO BE WORN, ISN'T IT ?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

DO YOU AGREE TO THIS PRICE ?
SCRAPP
ALRIGHT... BUT UNDER ONE CONDITION.
FOR ONE MONTH, TRY TO WEAR IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU GO OUTSIDE
IT'S EXPENSIVE !!
I'M BUYING IT.
PENNILESS, NOW.
GRIN
HERE YOU GO
Put
I'VE GOT THAT EXACT AMOUNT ON ME
flump
flump
flump

HEY, YOU, WHAT IS YOUR FIRST NAME ?
CHYOHJI
YOUR EYES LOOK A LITTLE LIKE THE ONES ON THE PICTURE
ARE YOU BROTHERS ?
YES. I AM THE YOUNGEST ONE


NO NEED.


HEY, IWA, ARE WE ALREADY GOING BACK ?
MY NAME IS IWAGO NICE TO MEET YOU
BENIMARU'S SONS ARE CALLED SUCH AND CHYOHJI HA HA HA
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, I'LL COME AGAIN


WAIT, I'LL PACK
I'm here too.

Such elegance !!
I didn't know that Iwago, the "Black Demon" was so elegant.
Such sobriety..
Idiot, he isn't called "Demon" for nothing !
CHYOH-NI!.. WHAT WILL YOU DO, AN-CHAN WILL BE MAD!?
I KNOW !!
I'LL TELL AN-CHAN, I EN-TRUST YOU WITH THE SHOP
WHAT?
SOLD ? YOU SOLD IT!?
SO WELL !
I'm buying this.

IDIOT, AFTER ALL I SAID!!!
SUOH!
DON'T SAY SUCH NONSENSE, A TRADESMAN CAN'T TAKE BACK THE MERCHANDISE HE HAS ALREADY SOLD.
IT'S A DECISION MADE BY CHYOWJI, AND YOU CHOSE HIM AS MANAGER !
AN-CHAN, LISTEN TO ME !
THE MAN WHO BOUGHT IT IS VERY WELL KNOWN IN YOSHIHARA IT WILL BE GOOD ADVERTISING FOR THE SHOP
AND AFTER ALL, IT SUITED HIM PERFECTLY !
YOU KEPT THIS MODEL'S PATTERN, DIDN'T YOU ? YOU JUST HAVE TO DO ANOTHER ONE
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO ANOTHER ONE THAT YOU THINK ITS NOT A UNIQUE MODEL!
MOREOVER, THERE'S A DESIGN ON IT THAT I IMPROVISED!
GO GET IT BACK !!
It was for him,
It was for him, it...
It was for him,
ISN'T A KIMONO MADE TO BE WORN ?
YOU'RE DOING BUSINESS KNOWING THIS!
For me it's a mystery too
I had some ideas in mind, but I don't understand how I could sell it so easily to that man.

SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU
FORGIVE ME CHYOHJI
I AM SORRY TOO
Brothers, hurry and come back!
FORGIVE ME
Don't make such a face or I can't be mad
ALRIGHT!
THEN LET ME AT LEAST RECOPY THE DESIGN
In truth, I'm a natural at recopying.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S STAYING?
YE YES
THEN WE WILL GO AND SEE HIM TODAY OR TOMORROW AFTER THE SHOP'S CLOSING

FORGIVE US FOR DISTURBING YOU. IS MR IWAGO HERE?
WE'RE FROM THE CLOTHING SHOP 'SUCH'
PLEA. PLEASE. WAIT A MINUTE..
sigh...

WELL WELL
DID YOU COME HERE TO BUY IT BACK ?

I SEE
COME ON DON'T STAY IN THE ENTRANCE COME UPSTAIRS
NO... ACTUALLY IT...
YOU SEE ? IT SUITS HIM REALLY WELL, DOESN'T IT ?
HMM
JUST 'HMM'? YOU'VE GOT NOTHING MORE TO SAY ?
...!
Shit!
Why should it be such a guy who bought it...
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT.
IT SUITS HIM SO WELL IT BECOMES LESS INTERESTING

♪ Loud Music ♫
Mr Nakamura, did you know? It is said that a very smart clothing shop opened in the sixth district
I want to go there so badly. Please take us there
PLEASE EXCUSE ME A MOMENT
It's true that I've seen some clothes from Mrs Benimaru's shop here and there.
The shop opened then.
I should have a look...
but I can't buy anything in that shop

I can't turn back since I've already come so far
End it quickly
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME SORRY, BUT COULD YOU TAKE IT OFF ?
THE DESIGN I'D LIKE TO SEE IS INSIDE AT THE HEART'S LEVEL
AH YES ALRIGHT..
I'VE GOT NOTHING UNDER RIGHT NOW I'M EMBARASSED
MOREOVER I'M SLIGHTLY COLD
DO YOU AGREE TO MY STAYING CLOTHED?
..YES

HERE IS THE SAKE.
slide
He isn't nicknamed "Demon" for nothing!
TAKE A GLASS.

THE ORIGINAL IS FAR PRETTIER.
He's said to be bisexual...
You should be cautious..
DON'T DISTURB HIM
OK, I'M DONE
WELL
AN-CHAN... ARE YOU DONE ?

CRASH
AN-CHAN!!
smash
CHYOHJI !!
BAM
KICK

YOU AGAIN !?
HERE IN SANKIROH, NOBODY'S STRONGER THAN THE 'BLACK DEMON'
GIVE UP ALREADY...
SFX: GRAB
AND YOU, SUB-LIEU-TENANT... WHY ARE YOU HERE ?
GODOH !!
DOESN'T MATTER WHY I'M...
Argh !
SFX: CRASH

SFX NOTE: GLINT OF SOMETHING SHARP

ACTUALLY I'M A COWARD.
I'M JOKING. JOKING!
HE HEHE ...
GET YOUR THINGS, QUICKLY.
YE- YE-S.
CHYOHJI ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?
OW..

BOTH OF YOU,
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
YOU SEE
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A WOMAN THAT YOU'RE MADE FUN OF.

A PROUD WARRIOR LIKE YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND
splash splash
Hick
SAY, HOW OLD ARE YOU ?
? 36 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A HARD TIME WITH THAT FACE
YOU'RE THIS AGE AND YET STILL A SUB-LIEUTENANT ?
mmh
Hick

.....
IT'S ALRIGHT TO WRAP ONESELF IN A LONG RIBBON
BUT IF THE WORLD IS UNBEARABLE, YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT MORE BEARABLE.

WE WE'LL MAKE THE WORLD CHANGE IN OUR WAY

OH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I HAD SOMETHING FOR YOU SUB-LIEUTENANT, IN CASE WE MET AGAIN
A flashy cloth again.. a hand towel ?
HUH– THANKS
IT'S A THANK YOU GIFT FOR YESTERDAY'S RESCUE
IF YOU LIKE IT, COULD YOU USE IT ?
COME ON, WE'RE GOING BACK HOME
I'LL THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TODAY ANOTHER TIME

MR 'RED DEMON' ?
HUH? AH
WELL...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE COLOR "SUOH" IS?
WELL , YOU CAN'T EVEN SAY IT
YOU'RE REALLY A RUDE MAN

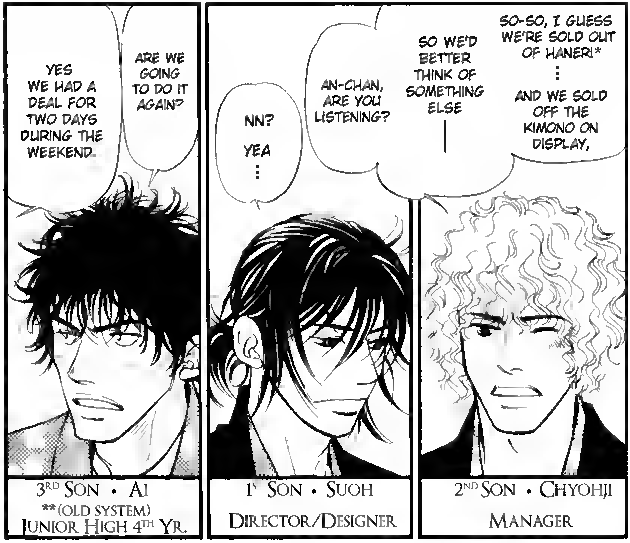
Happy
New Year
Hiromu Tanibata
Naini
LOVELESS

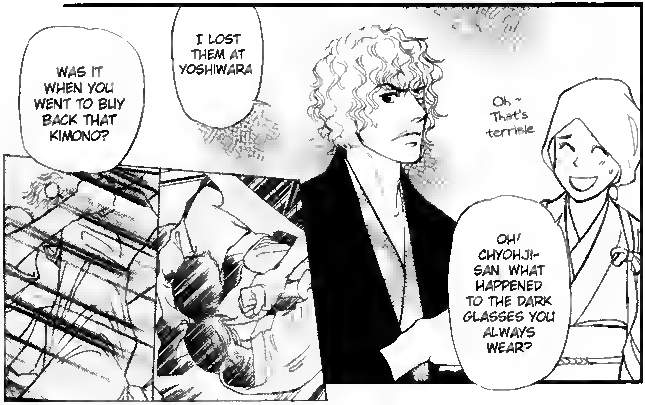
©Kanami Onozato/fpl
Loveless
http://loveless.warnerheart.com/ #loveless @fruitsplanet

IT'S A THANK YOU GIFT, USE IT.
I'M RETURNING THIS!
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT BUT IT'S NOT TO MY TASTE!!
其之弐

其之弐
aaaah…

TONK
SUOH, NEWS! NEWS!
HAHAHAHA
This will definitely be a hit!
CREATIVE PROCESS
ANGUISH
ANGUISH
GO AHEAD DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH THAT
THERE'S AN ARTICLE ON OUR SHOP! WOW-
SO HOW DID THE SALES GO?
HAVING MODELS WALKING THROUGH YOSHIWARA WORKED
THAT'S CHYOH-NI FOR YOU!
AI PUT AWAY THE NEWS-PAPER


YES WE HAD A DEAL FOR TWO DAYS DURING THE WEEKEND.
ARE WE GOING TO DO IT AGAIN?
3RD SON • AI
**(OLD SYSTEM) JUNIOR HIGH 4TH YR.
NN? YEA
AN-CHAN, ARE YOU LISTENING?
SO WE'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE
1ST SON • SUOH
DIRECTOR/DESIGNER
SO-SO, I GUESS WE'RE SOLD OUT OF HANERI*
AND WE SOLD OFF THE KIMONO ON DISPLAY,
2ND SON • CHYOHJI
MANAGER


WAS IT WHEN YOU WENT TO BUY BACK THAT KIMONO?
I LOST THEM AT YOSHIWARA
Oh~ That's terrible
OH! CHYOHJI-SAN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DARK GLASSES YOU ALWAYS WEAR?

*NOTE A DECORATED COLLAR WORN OVER A KIMONO UNDERGARMENT
**NOTE IN THE TAISHO PERIOD UP UNTIL WWII, JUNIOR HIGH WAS A 5 YEAR SYSTEM INSTEAD OF THE 3 YEARS SYSTEM IT IS TODAY

SAY, THAT WAS QUITE A UNIQUE PAIR OF GLASSES
M^M
WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF FASHION AFTER ALL DON'T YOU HAVE AN EXTRA PAIR?
AI!
DON'T TALK AS IF YOU WERE THERE YOURSELF!
NO, WE WENT TO COPY THE DESIGN
⋮
THAT'S WHEN
NOOO-
SINCE OUR CUSTOMERS ARE (SUPPOSED TO BE) MOSTLY MEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN
BUT THE CUSTOMER WHO BOUGHT THAT KIMONO, WASN'T HE TOTALLY DEBONAIR?

KAYO-CHAN, THAT KIND OF GUY'S YOUR TYPE?
HOW DO I SAY IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN A PERSON LIKE HIM. NOT EVEN AMONG THEATRE ACTORS.
I LIKE IT!
HE LOOKS SO MUCH BETTER IN THE SHOP'S KIMONOS THAN ANY OF THE WIRED MODELS!!
AND BECAUSE HE OBLIGINGLY WORE THE KIMONO, WASN'T IT GREAT PUBLICITY FOR THE SHOP?
I SUPPOSE
KAYO-CHAN, THAT PERSON'S CALLED IWAGO THE BLACK DEMON, YOU KNOW.
THE FAMOUS BISEXUAL PLAYBOY IN YOSHIMURA?
YES I KNOW, BECAUSE THE GIRLS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT.
AREN'T THE THREE OF YOU IN MORE DANGER THAN I AM?
Too late!

YEA
AN-CHAN EAT UP
YOU'RE FAR PRETTIER IN PERSON
MUNCH
MUNCH
drop
drop
IT'S A PITY THAT HE HAS SUCH CRUDE MANNERS DESPITE BEING A BEAUTY
I'M FULL

NO, HE'S UPSET BECAUSE
AI!
IS HE THAT UPSET ABOUT THE KIMONO BEING SOLD?
SIGH~ WHAT A WASTE OF FOOD
GOOD MORNING, IT'S ME, YOSHI!
RATTLE
MAKE SOME RICEBALLS, MOTHER
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SINCE WE'LL BE OPEN 'TILL LATE INSTEAD
GOBBLE GOBBLE
I FEEL BAD FOR OPENING THE SHOP AT SUCH A LATE HOUR.
AHHH- YOU'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF BREAKFAST?
DON'T MIND US, WE STARTED BREAKFAST LATE...
WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT OUR SHOP HOURS IF WE'RE TARGETING THE YOSHIWARA CROWD...
YOSHI-SAN PLEASE WAIT

tap
tap
tap
AN-
CHAN

HOW WOULD I KNOW?
THEN DON'T BE SO DEPRESSED ABOUT IT
AN-CHAN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTD A SOLDIER TO HAVE ANY SENSE OF TASTE
ESPECIALLY SINCE THAT GUY'S FAMOUS FOR BEING STRAIT-LACED
you are more upset than I thought
I SAY YOU SHOULD GIVE UP
I DON'T NEED HELP WITH MY LOVE LIFE!
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR SEXUAL PREFERENCE, BUT LEAVE THAT SOLDIER ALONE HE REJECTED OUR SHOP'S CLOTHES STRAIGHT OUT
THERE WON'T EVEN BE A GLIMMER OF HOPE
WE HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR MOTHER AND AI, AND THINK ABOUT YOSHI WHO STAYED WITH US
I'M WORRYING BECAUSE YOUR STATE OF MIND AFFECTS YOUR WORK
I bet the Sub-Lieutenant also thinks he might not have gotten so angry if it had been the kimono
THERE'S NO GOING BACK
SHOW IS TRYING TO SELL KIMONOS WITH AVANT-GARDE DESIGNS WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THE DESIGNER
But I can't stay angry at Chyoh forever
I KNOW!

I SAID, I KNOW YOU'RE A NUISANCE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT!
Hurry up and go back to the main house!
Argh... Stupid Chyahh. I'm restraining myself from taking it out on you.
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF MOTHER'S BUT SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANY-THING.
AS IF I KNOW.
BUT WHY WOULD SUCH A FOREIGNER BE IN THE IMPERIAL LAND ARMY?
EITHER WAY, NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH MEN
SLAP
WE'RE BUSIER THAN YESTERD-
EAT SOME-THING THEN HURRY AND COME TALK ABOUT THE SHOP'S PLANS
YOSHI-SAN'S HERE WAITING FOR US

RUFFLE RUFFLE
STEP
STEP

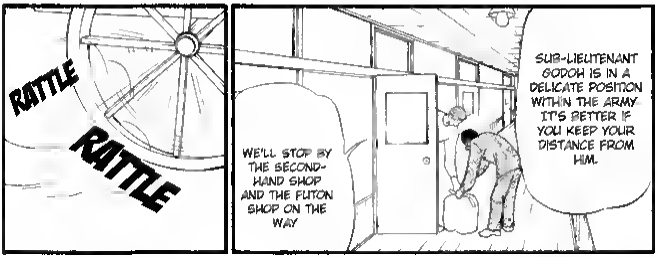
ARE YOU MOVING OUT TODAY, SUB-LIEUTENANT?
YEAH
IT'S SAD TO SEE YOU GO

STARE

*SIGNPOST 1ST REGIMENT OF THE INFANTRY
POLKA-DOTTED BRIGHT RED UNDERPANTS!
WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT GUY THINKING

AAAH
SO TODAY'S THE LAST TIME WE'LL SEE THAT SIGHT
BECAUSE THE FOREIGN-FACED SUB-LIEUTENANT GODOH IS SO CHARISMATIC WHEN SAYING GRACE, YOU HAVE CROWDS OF PEOPLE BECOMING CATHOLIC, ONE AFTER THE OTHER
IT EVENTUALLY CAME DOWN TO FORCING HIM TO LEAVE WITH BAD INFLUENCE AS A REASON

EVEN THOUGH NOW THERE'S FREEDOM OF RELIGION, THE TRUTH IS THE TOP BRASS FROWNS ON IT.
I WISH I WERE MOVING WITH HIM TO ASAKUSA
IDIOT. YOU KNOW ORDINARY SOLDIERS CAN'T LEAVE THE BARRACKS


SUB-LIEUTENANT GODOH IS IN A DELICATE POSITION WITHIN THE ARMY. IT'S BETTER IF YOU KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM HIM.
WE'LL STOP BY THE SECOND-HAND SHOP AND THE FUTON SHOP ON THE WAY
RATTLE
RATTLE

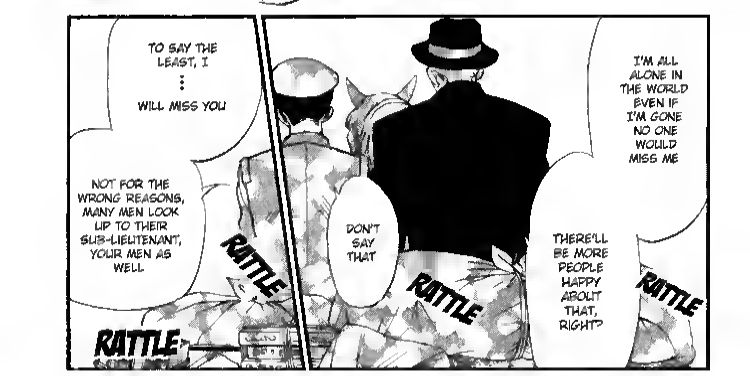
HI MISTER GODOH!

GOOD MORNING, FATHER
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T MAKE IT FOR THE SERVICE
G'MORNING,
WE MISSED YOU!
GRIN
DUE TO SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M GOING TO BE LIVING UNDER YOUR CARE.
I HOPE WE'LL GET ALONG WELL.
ME TOO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR BATH?
AROUND THE NEARBY BATH-HOUSE FIRST
IF THERE'S NO COMFORTABLE PLACE, I SHALL HAVE TO IMPOSE ON YOU.

radiant
PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS
IT'S MY DUTY TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
GOOD DAY
PLEASE WAIT. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE
THERE'LL BE A GATHERING WITH THE PARISH IN YOKOHAMA THIS AFTERNOON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
IT WAS DECIDED AFTER YOU WENT BACK YESTERDAY, SO WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TELL YOU
YOKOHAMA? BUT THE CURFEW
DO THE LODGING HOUSES HAVE CURFEWS TOO?
AAH ⋮ THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT
BUT IT'D BE NICE
IT'S JUST A LIGHT LUNCHEON, SO PLEASE JOIN US.
EVERYBODY THERE WILL BE FROM ENGLAND
HAVE A NICE DAY
RATTLE
RATTLE

ERM ⋮ IS IT REALLY TRUE?
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A CATHOLIC PRIEST AFTER YOU RETIRE FROM THE ARMY
IS ROMAN CATHOLICISM REALLY SUCH A GOOD THING?
RATTLE
RATTLE
YES, I THINK IT SUITS ME WELL
AND UNLIKE THE MONKS IN JAPAN, THERE'S NO PRACTICE OF MALE HOMOSEXUALITY
BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO GO TO A SPECIAL SCHOOL IN ENGLAND IN ORDER TO BE FORMALLY ORDAINED AS A PRIEST, SO I INTEND TO DEPART FOR ENGLAND AFTER MY RETIREMENT
SINCE THE FATHER HAS ABOUT 2 YEARS LEFT OF HIS APPOINTMENT, I'LL LEAVE WITH HIM WHEN IT ENDS
I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING THAT, SO HOW DID YOU KNOW?
WELL, I GUESS IT WAS OBVIOUS
WHAT ABOUT MARRIAGE? IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

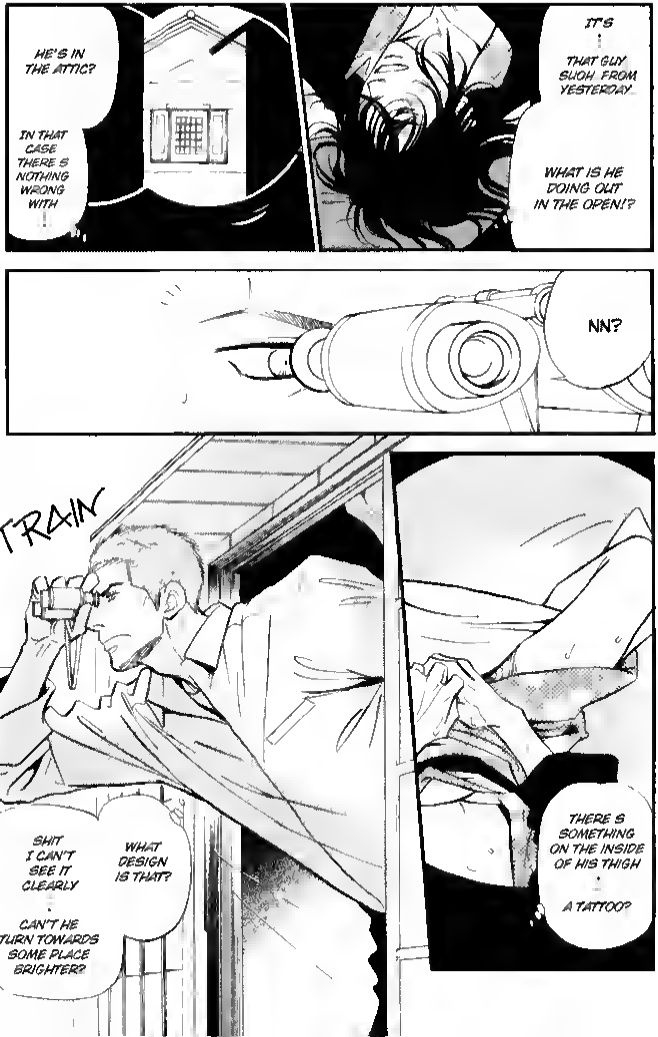
WITH THIS FACE,
THERE'S NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A CHANCE,
I'M TIRED, I'D RATHER NOT THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE
AND THERE HASN'T BEEN TOO MANY FOND MEMORIES
Jolt


I'M ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD EVEN IF I'M GONE NO ONE WOULD MISS ME
THERE'LL BE MORE PEOPLE HAPPY ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?
DON'T SAY THAT
TO SAY THE LEAST, I ⋮ WILL MISS YOU
NOT FOR THE WRONG REASONS, MANY MEN LOOK UP TO THEIR SUB-LIEUTENANT, YOUR MEN AS WELL
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

TO HAVE SUCH A HANDSOME FACE
TIMES ARE CHANGING
I WISH I HAD BEEN BORN A LITTLE LATER.
ONCE I BECOME A PRIEST, IT'LL BE A SIN TO DESIRE A WOMAN OR A MAN
REALLY, I'VE HAD ENOUGH
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO GIVE UP HOPE, THE SUB-LIEUTENANT IS SOMEONE WHO PERSEVERES
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
DIDN'T THE SUB-LIEUTENANT NOTICE IT AT ALL?
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY GOING ON.
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN FOREIGN CULTURES THAT WAS WEIRD
EVEN SO, THE PRIEST JUST NOW, HIS BEHAVIOR WAS WAY TOO ODD
OI, YOU'VE GONE PAST IT, STOP! STOP!

let go
OOPS!
ROLL
PLONK
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE LIVED IN A CIVILIAN QUARTER
A BATH-HOUSE
WITH MY BODY, THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT
WELL I'LL GET USED TO IT. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I RETIRE FROM THE ARMY
SLIM
GAZE

SHOCK


HE'S IN THE ATTIC?
IN THAT CASE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH
IT'S
THAT GUY SUCH FROM YESTERDAY...
WHAT IS HE DOING OUT IN THE OPEN!?
NN?
STRAIN
SHIT I CAN'T SEE IT CLEARLY
CAN'T HE TURN TOWARDS SOME PLACE BRIGHTER?
WHAT DESIGN IS THAT?
THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE INSIDE OF HIS THIGH
A TATTOO?

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
pant
pant
pant
sigh

WIPE
WIPE
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE

.....
SLAM!
.....

AM I THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE WHO OWNS A PAIR OF BINOCULARS?
SHOULD I BE CAREFUL ABOUT USING THEM?
BUT THEN, IT WAS WRONG OF ME JUST NOW TO
UHH
WHY AM I SO AROUSED OVER SEEING A MAN MASTURBATE ?
IT WAS RUDE OF ME TO PEEP IN THE FIRST PLACE.
STILL, TO LEAVE IT LIKE THIS
THEN AGAIN

KYAA
KYAA
SHOP
JUST SELL IT.
CHYOH NI ... WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A MEN'S SHOP ...
NO! IT'S FOR MEN!!
SO IT'S ACTUALLY A GIRLS' SHOP?
DESPITE BEING SCARED REGARDING THE MOUSEPAD
WAIT, WAIT~ WHICH ONE SHOULD I PICK?
HEY, IF WE DON'T GET BACK SOON WE'LL GET SCOLDED.
YOU WERE LUCKY TO GET OFF WITH ONLY A BRUISE
ARE YOU LADIES FROM SANKIROH?
I DIDN'T GO THERE PLANNING TO PICK A FIGHT ...
SO YOU'RE THE FOOL WHO CAME TO PICK A QUARREL WITH OUR IWAGO LAST NIGHT?

SHIT. THOSE GLASSES COST ME A BOMB.
Nonsense, they've exaggerating the truth
EH?! BUT I HEARD THAT IWAGO ALREADY HAD HIM?
STEAMING
I HEARD THE RED DEMON APPEARED JUST WHEN HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING RAVISHED BY IWAGO!
WHAT? REALLY?!
BY THE WAY, DID YOU SEE A PAIR OF DARK GLASSES?
I LOST THEM AT THE SHOP.
REALLY? I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING
SOMEONE PROBABLY PICKED THEM UP AND TOOK THEM.
COME AND LOOK FOR THEM TONIGHT AT THE SHOP, THEN?
WELL, SOME OTHER TIME THEN
We'll give you a discount!
hehe
SORRY, YOSHI-SAN, BUT LET ME GO TO LUNCH FIRST.
I'LL SCARF IT DOWN AND BE BACK IN NO TIME
I GOT IT.
HATES GIRLS
Whoa a pity
FEDEX

YO.
IS CHYOHJI-SAN AROUND?
OH! IT'S IWA!!
Speak of the devil!!
APPEARS

JUST HURRY UP AND GO BACK, THE LADY BOSS IS IN A FOUL MOOD
OH NO! WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE!
OI OI, THIS IS A MEN'S SHOP, YOU KNOW
SO, WHERE'S CHYOUJI-SAN? I'M LOOKING FOR HIM
Thank you for coming!
I'M SORRY BUT HE'S JUST GONE OUT FOR LUNCH~
Well the sub-lieutenant was huge as well
WHAT DID HE EAT TO GET SO BIG ?
I'M ON THE HUGE SIDE TOO, BUT
HE'S REALLY HUGE

FUFU…
HMMM?
I'LL COME AGAIN.

Icegakoke by Hiromi Tanaka
ISBN 4-403-65008-6

Translated by Hiromi Tanaka
ISBN: 4-403-65008-6

CHOUJI-SAN,
THERE IS A VISITOR FOR YOU IN THE HALL BUT HE'S ERR
WHO?
IT'S THE "BLACK DEMON",
HE'S WEARING BLACK GLASSES LIKE YOURS!

其之參

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YO!
I CAME HERE TO ESPECIALLY RETURN YOUR BLACK GLASSES, YOU LEFT THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
...THIS BASTARD-
YOU'RE SANKIROU'S IWAGO-SAN, RIGHT?
THOUGHT-LESSLY ENTERING OTHER'S PEOPLE'S HOMES THE WAY YOU DO IS A NUISANCE
...This guy really is handsome.
He wears An-chan's kimono so much better than anyone else.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FOR...
LIFT

A deep voice...
YOU'RE BRUISED,
IT RUINS YOUR PRETTY FACE.
VERY EROTIC LIPS
GRAB

CLANG!
clatter!

Nh
...!
GASP
What the hell are you doing!?
Shit! I was really careless!
What ridiculous strength.
COULD THIS BE YOUR FIRST KISS?
That doesn't concern you!

YA
NK
Ha!
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL TATTOO,
WAS IT ALSO YOUR BROTHER'S DESIGN?
LET ME TAKE A CLEARER LOOK.
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT JUST ANYONE IS ALLOWED TO SEE!

Flap
A TATTOO IS USELESS UNLESS YOU CAN SHOW IT OFF.
HOW ABOUT IT?
WILL YOU COME AND SHOW ME YOURS TONIGHT?
A golden orb-web spider —
I'M SORRY I'M BUSY
I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE MONEY TO GO TO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT
The rumors about him being unprincipled are true. It was just last night that he tried to seduce An-chan.

I'LL INVITE YOUR OLDER BROTHER THEN
I GOT IT
WHERE IS HE NOW?
MY BROTHER ISN'T GAY... AND BESIDES
HE'S VERY WARY OF YOU SO—

Flap
THAT'S A PITY.
SHOULD YOU EVER HAVE ANY TROUBLE JUST COME TO ME

I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU BOTH OF YOU.
—WHY?

REAL MEN ARE GORGEOUS!
RIGHT?
A NEW BUSINESS IN A STRANGE TOWN... TRYING TO POPULARIZE SHOWY KIMONO FOR MEN
BEAUTY IS A DISPLAY OF POWER AND ATTRACTS WOMEN MORE THAN ANYTHING
EVERYONE SAYS THAT IT'S "WHAT'S INSIDE THAT MAKES A MAN BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH
"Real men are gorgeous!"
—!

SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU
LET ME BUY YOU DINNER SOMETIME
THE PICKLES INSIDE YOUR MOUTH WERE RATHER GOOD
Wha-t?
AND THAT KIMONO... YOUR BROTHER IS EITHER A GENIUS OR A PROSTITUTE
BLACK UNDERWEAR?

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AH, THAT'S A SUOH KIMONO
ARE THEY ADVERTISING IT IN THE MOVIE DISTRICT NOW TOO?
DIDN'T THEY DO A FLASHY PROMOTION IN YOSHIWARA LAST NIGHT?
I WENT TO THE SHOP
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING IT?
MY FATHER YELLED AT ME "DO YOU INTEND TO WEAR A WOMAN'S KIMONO!?"
I never got to wear it
THE BLACK DEVIL GENEROUSLY BOUGHT A VERY EXPENSIVE ONE AND I ENDED UP GETTING ONE TOO~

DON'T YOU THINK THE BLACK DEVIL WAS A DECOY?
I'VE SEEN A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE OWNER. HE'S REALLY A GREAT BEAUTY
Probably
MAYBE HE ASKED HIM TO DO IT IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS BODY?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
Haha
"As a stage costume? If you want to make men's wear..."
"For a man it's chic to be flamboyant on the inside. This is why young people ——"
Seriously, every single one of them.
Why would everything that's colorful have to be for women? And they all wear gaudy underwear themselves!
Augh..!!
KICK
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING LIKE THAT!!
Moron!!
EH IS THAT HIM!?
And what's with that pose?
Gasp

Second lieutenant...
A Roman Catholic church... The Second Lieutenant is a believer?
!
He's wearing the same solid-colored suit as a priest...
thudump

"Men don't need beauty!"
"It's not my taste!"
.....
.....
.....
YOUR CAR IS HERE MISTER GODOH

THAT WAS AN INTERESTING KIMONO, WASN'T IT? I WONDER IF IT IS THE INFLUENCE OF ART NOUVEAU!
FOR A JAPANESE WOMAN SHE IS UNCOMMONLY TALL
CLINK CLINK
GLOOM

NOT EVERYONE CAN BE LIKE YOU.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST NOT SUITED FOR PHYSICAL LABOR
I'm fine that, too

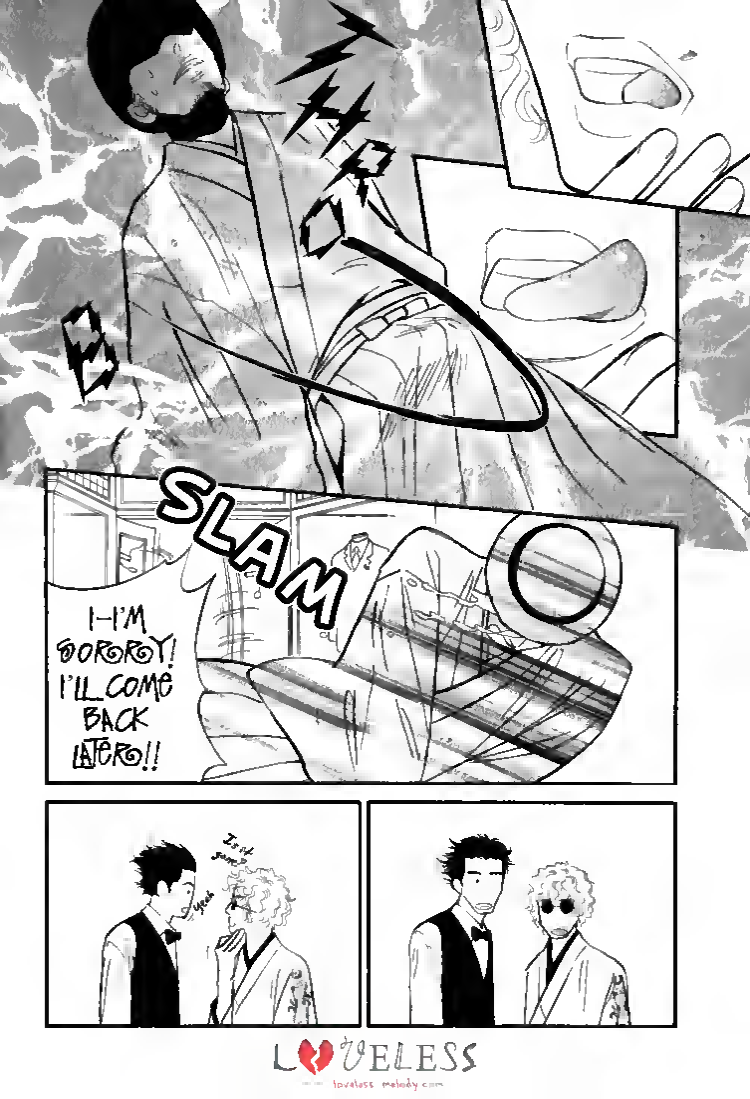
well, well...

EEH!?
THAT WAS A MAN!
HE'S A BIT WEIRD. HE THINKS MEN SHOULD ALSO DRESS UP
FOR MEN IT'S WHAT IS INSIDE THAT MATTERS! AND A WELL-TRAINED BODY!

DOES IT MATTER?
BEAUTY ISN'T LIMITED TO MALE OR FEMALE
BEAUTY MOVES MEN'S HEARTS
IN GOOD WAYS AND IN BAD WAYS

Yeah.
FATHER LAWRENCE HAS A WEAKNESS FOR ANYTHING BEAUTIFUL
.....
ESPECIALLY THAT PERSON JUST NOW. HE WAS SO LOVELY WE SHOULD CALL HIM THE ANGEL OF THE ORIENT.
People come to this street for the purpose of seeing art, you know?
I SHOULD STOP COMING TO THIS CHURCH FOR A BATH AFTER ALL.
I have a bad feeling about this.
Does he live nearby?
How did you get to know him, Mister Godoh?
WELL, YES...
HE'S JUST AN AQUAINTANCE.
AH, YOU'RE THE PART-TIMER
CHO... CHOUJI-SAN
YOSHI-SAN YOU CAN GO AND HAVE LUNCH NOW
SHOP
HOUSE
MY NAME'S SUKEROKU TSUCHIYA!
I live very close!!!

HIS TATTOO... I- I WANT TO SEE IT TOO
BUT IF I SAY ANYTHING HE'LL FIND OUT THAT I SAW THAT KISS EARLIER.
SWALLOW
I'M SORRY BUT THERE IS STILL TIME. SO CAN YOU JUST LOOK AROUND A LITTLE OVER THERE?
A KISS WITH THE BLACK DEVIL
HM?
NO. THERE IS SOME SAUCE NEXT TO YOUR MOUTH——
THIS BRUISE? I BUMPED INTO SOMETHING.
EH?
HEDHES



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Ah, here, it's here!
chatter
Kyaaah! They are all so wonderful!
Pretty! ♡
Ai DID WE HAVE ANY MALE CUSTOMERS WHILE I WAS GONE?
NOT ONE
Only those two from just now
You're so noisy, be quiet!!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, CHOU-NII? AT THIS RATE WE REALLY WILL BECOME A SHOP FOR WOMEN!
THAT WON'T DO, CHOUJI!
GULP
It doesn't matter, as long as they pay!
.....
"Real men are gorgeous!"

An-chan ...!!
Uh oh—
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SELL TO WOMEN, DIDN'T I?
clack
clack
YOU SOLD SOMETHING THAT WASN'T FOR SALE, YOU JUST DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE ——
Clench
APIG
shock

Let me hit you, bastard!
OWNER, YOU'RE UPSETTING THE CUSTOMERS
SLAM!
I'm the owner! I decide what direction we take the store in!
If we go out of business that'll do us no good!
You said you'd leave the shop floor to me, of course I'm thinking about the profits!
What is going on?
What is going on?
What is going on?

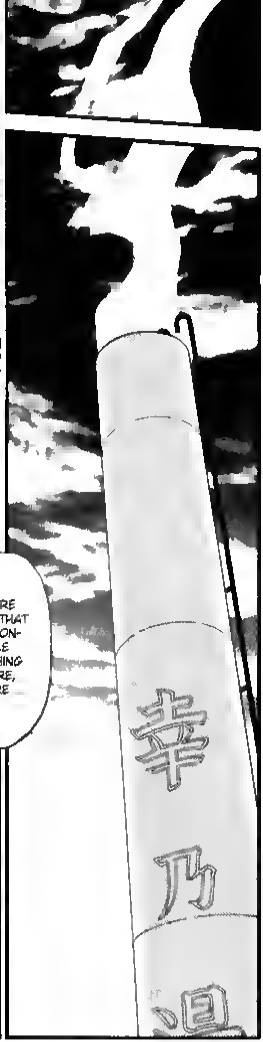
AN-CHAN... AN-CHAN, YOU'RE A GOOD ARTISAN,
AND I LOVE YOUR DESIGNS, I THINK THEY ARE GREAT
I'VE EVEN MADE ONE OF THEM INTO A TATTOO
And I want everyone to know about your kimono,
But first we have to make the store a success!
You can stick to your policy after we do that, it won't be too late then, right?
No! If they are regarded as women's clothes it will be too late!
If a woman wears men's clothes it's chic, but the other way around will not be accepted!
You know I've always suffered because I have a feminine face, don't you?
I know!
It's because I know that I want to help you——
Then—

Why did you betray me?
We discussed this so many times before we opened the store, and this is the result!?
An-...
WEREN'T YOU THE ONLY ONE I COULD COUNT ON?
Chouji!
If you don't have what it takes to do it, go back to the 'Tokiwaya'!
HE'S JUST SAYING THAT TO FLATTER HIM
BUT WE'RE HERE, TOO~
Ah, a taboo word!

.....
Wai—
GO AND COOL YOUR HEAD. I'LL TAKE OVER THE STORE FRONT TODAY
OPEN
I UNDERSTAND
I WON'T SELL TO WOMEN ANYMORE
RUN!
WAIT
HOMS
.....
WHAT IS IT, AI?

Where!?
In the store!
U-U-uhn.
IN THE STORE?
TH-THE-THERE'S A JOURNALIST FROM A MAGAZINE WHO'S COME TO DO A REPORT...
SQUEEZE
I'M HANAMURA FROM THE SHINFUJIN-RON *
LET ME ASK RIGHT AWAY, HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO MAKE THESE FLASHY MEN'S CLOTHES?
*NEW LADIES REVIEW
YANK
Our clothes are men's wear!!
We don't sell to women!!
SMACK
clack clack
Eh?
Eh?

AH SOLDIER-SAN?


幸乃

AI THE THIRD SON~
YOU'RE FROM THAT FASHION-ABLE CLOTHING STORE, YOU'RE

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO, WE DO, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE HANGING AROUND AT HOME RIGHT NOW
WELL, SORT OF... DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR OWN BATH AT YOUR HOUSE?
Geh, everyone's bleeding
SOLDIER-SAN, DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE TOO?
Ah! That's right! Soldier-san!
I'M SECOND LIEUTENANT GODOH FROM THE GROUND FORCES
Second Lieutenant, won't you come and use our bath!?
It will save you money.
And we'll let you have dinner, too.
PULL
PULL
Oi, don't pull, don't pull.
WHAT'S THE HURRY!? TELL ME WHY FIRST!
IT'S BECAUSE BECAUSE...

THE KIMONO'S AREN'T SELLING AS WELL AS WE'D HOPED
MY SECOND BROTHER SOLD A LOT OF THEM TO GIRLS FROM YOSHIWARA AND THE GEISHA QUARTERS, AND THEY ARE SEEN AS 'CLOTHES FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN' NOW
YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SELL THEM TO WOMEN THEN

MY ELDEST BROTHER DOESN'T WANT TO
HE WANTS TO MAKE THEM POPULAR WITH THE MALE PUBLIC RATHER THAN MAKE A LOT OF MONEY
YEAH, HE SAID THAT
BUT IF WE DON'T SELL ANYTHING, WE'LL GO OUT OF BUSINESS

MY FATHER'S DEAD...
WE'VE SEVERED ALL BONDS WITH THE SHOP IN NIPPONBASHI, AND DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER RELATIVES
IS THERE NO ONE WHO CAN MEDIATE? LIKE YOUR FATHER OR SOMEONE?
And now every night my brothers fight over the way the store is run...
And today we're closed.
AND BENIMARU, YOUR MOTHER?
SHE SAYS SHE'LL GO WITH WHAT WE DECIDE.
YEAH.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL TIME...
This looks like a complicated situation
TWENTY-FOUR AND TWENTY-FIVE...
But I look older.
YOUR TWO BROTHERS. HOW OLD ARE THEY?
AS THE THIRD SON, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING AND I'M STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH *
YOU SHOULD SPEAK UP MORE...

* UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM. (JUNIOR HIGH USED TO BE A 5 YEAR SYSTEM INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT 3 YEAR SYSTEM.)

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kaini
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obby
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trophime
Ecla
happy 3rd anniversary!

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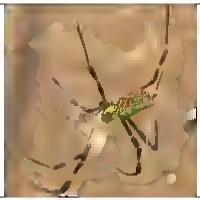
GOLDEN ORB-WEB SPIDER
(NEPHILA CLAVATA)

Info and images taken from Wiki (English and Japanese versions)



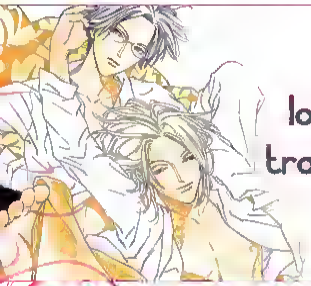
Nephila clavata is a member of golden orb-web spider. The spider can be found throughout Japan except Hokkaidou. In Korea, Taiwan and China.

The spider 女郎蜘蛛 (Jorougumo) shares its name with a type of youkai. 絳新婦 It's said that During the Edo period (1603-1868), the apparition of a beautiful woman would seduce men to a secluded hut by playing music (biwa - Japanese lute). The men would be caught off guard after seeing how beautiful the woman was (shes said to posses unparalleled beauty), and Jorougumo would take this chance to entwine the men in spider thread and devour them.

Jorougumo makes an appearance as one of the youkai in Toriyama Sekiens 'Kazu Hyakki Yakou' (lit. 'Night Parade of One Hundred Demons')

LOVELESS

LOVELESS



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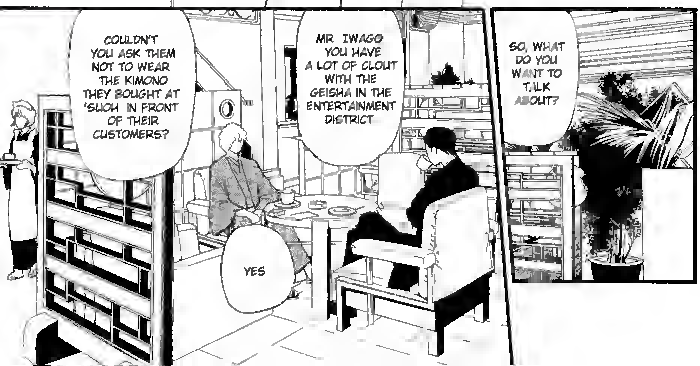
Chapter IV


COULDN'T YOU ASK THEM NOT TO WEAR THE KIMONO THEY BOUGHT AT SUCH IN FRONT OF THEIR CUSTOMERS?
MR. IWAGO YOU HAVE A LOT OF CLOUT WITH THE GEISHA IN THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
YES
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

LOVELESS

OY, OY. THEIR LIVES ARE HARD ENOUGH AS IT IS, AND NOW YOU WANT TO STEAL THEIR PRETTY CLOTHES AWAY FROM THEM TOO, CHOUJI?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MALE CUSTOMERS BUYING THEM. AT THIS RATE
AND YOU'RE NOT WEARING THAT UNIQUE PIECE TODAY.
IF I WEAR IT TOO MUCH IT WILL GET DAMAGED.
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER AND BUY A NEW ONE?
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY RIGHT NOW.
CHUK.

He's uniquely masculine
bowing down to him might be worth it...
MR. IWAGO, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO DO FOR ME
LIAR. YOU REEK OF MONEY
I can't make head or tails of him, but...
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR FREE
LOVELESS
AS FOR THE METHOD OF PAYMENT...
I WOULDN'T ASK YOU SOMETHING LIKE THIS IF WE HAD MONEY
I didn't say it wouldn't cost you
But the other day you said to ask you for help if we had trouble!

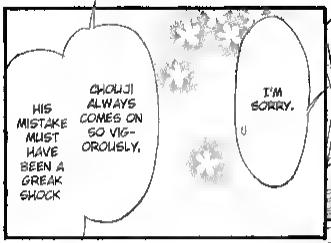
....
YOU'RE JOKING
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE MONEY
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'VE NEVER BEEN PROPOSITIONED TO BY A MAN?
OR ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE UNTOUCHED? YOUR BODY LOOKS HIGHLY SENSITIVE THOUGH.
AND THE TASTE OF YOUR LIPS THE OTHER DAY—
Slam!
Stop it!!

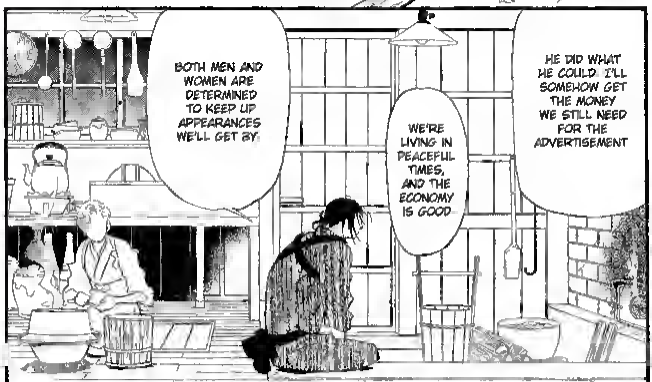
LOVELESS
a classic melody.com

IF IT'S LIKE THAT, I DON'T MIND HAVING YOUR BROTHER INSTEAD
he he

IT'S BECAUSE YOU AND CHOUJI FIGHT. AI IS VERY SENSITIVE.
HE'S PROBABLY PLAYING SHOGI IN A BIG SENTO

STUPID AI! WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?
HEATING THE BATH IS HIS JOB.


I'M SORRY.
CHOUJI ALWAYS COMES ON SO VIGOROUSLY.
HIS MISTAKE MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAK SHOCK


BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES WE'LL GET BY.
WE'RE LIVING IN PEACEFUL TIMES, AND THE ECONOMY IS GOOD.
HE DID WHAT HE COULD. I'LL SOMEHOW GET THE MONEY WE STILL NEED FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT

How about letting the red-haired second lieutenant wear one? It would be like a promotion
He's become so handsome If I were ten years younger
Cut it out mom!
How did you know him any way?
YOU'RE REALLY OBNOXIOUS.
WE GOT ACQUAINTED IN YOSHIWARA.
IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS
SINCE THEN
OH STOP IT 'MISS' BENIMARU
WITHOUT A SECRET LOVER, LIFE IS UNBEARABLE FOR A WIDOW
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF? YOU ARE 'THE WINGED SUCH' AFTER ALL
THAT TELEPHONE CALL— YOU INTEND TO GO TO A MAN AND BEG HIM FOR MONEY, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T TELL CHOUJI, WILL YOU? HE'S THE ONE WHO BROKE HIS PROMISE, AND YET HE STILL GETS ON MY CASE.
JUST BE CAREFUL

WHAT IS WRONG? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD
DID THE DEAL NOT GO AS PLANNED?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS RAISED WITHOUT A CARE LIKE YOU ANYWAY
WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING I'M USELESS?
DON'T START A FIGHT
THE BATH WILL BE READY SOON JUST A MINUTE
Open
I'll make the preparation right away
SORRY FOR BEING LATE
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN CONTROL.
YOU'RE TOGE-THER?
I MET HIM ON THE WAY HERE
I'LL TAKE OVER THE FIRE
I'll leave when Chouji is in the bath.
WHERE IS AI?
HE S NOT HOME YET
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I come after all.
Sliding door
I'm home!
I brought a guest.
Well who have we here!
I MET THE SECOND LIEUTENANT AT THE SENTO AND INVITED HIM TO HAVE DINNER WITH US
WHAT? YOU SAID I COULD HAVE A BATH HERE
hides
All!
glare!!
FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU'RE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTIES RIGHT NOW

It's none of your business!
SHOULDN'T YOU STICK TOGETHER IN TIMES LIKE THESE?
MEN YOUR AGE TAKING IT OUT ON YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER
A change of air is just what we need
The mood here is terrible right now
But you just got here! Stay and have a bath and dinner too
SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S A CHANCE TO SEE HIS TATTOO...
thudump
So what? He'll be happy to share it with the second lieutenant
MY BROTHER IS IN THE BATH NOW

steps steps
WHAT'S GOING ON?
You watch the fire Ai show him how to get to the bath
MOTHER!
An-chan, the second lieutenant is joining you.
gasp!

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LET'S GET IN TOGETHER...
Okay?
WHAT IS THIS MOOD...!?

sla p
s l a m
rush rush
h a
h a
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
AH!!

worry...
IS HE REALLY A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD MAN?
WELL HE CERTAINLY IS MALE
splash
THIS IS BAD. I'M GETTING TOO HOT
I HAVE TO GET OUT

.....
.....
I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR MY APPOINTMENT
BUT NOW THAT I HAVE THE SECOND LIEUTENANT HERE
DID I IMAGINE IT? I THOUGHT MY EYESIGHT WAS EXCELLENT...
SHIT. AM I GETTING OLD?
THAT COLOR IS AWFUL
HE SHOULD GET A NEW ONE IN OUR SHOP
WHY IS HE SO SEDUCTIVE!?
HE COULD AT LEAST GET A HAIR CUT!!
HE'S A MAN AFTER ALL.
지익
지익

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DAMN HIS SHOP ISN'T DOING WELL RIGHT NOW. HE JUST SAID THAT BECAUSE HE WANTS ORDERS
DON'T WANT IT.
IT'S YOU WHO LOOKS TERRIBLE THAT COLOR
WE CAN MAKE YOU A NICER--
PISS OFF
Do you dislike fashionable men that much, lieutenant? You old hat!
I brought you some more hot sake
Mmmm mh...
MADAM, IS THAT A FIRST DATE? OR IS IT A MOURNING WAKE?

"They become visible when your body gets hot...
It's called the 'Oshiroi' technique.
"Tattoos hurt, don't they?"
"Chouji, this is..."
ON TOP OF THAT AI HAS TO GO AND DO SOMETHING TOTALLY UN-CALLED FOR I'LL GET HIM FOR THAT
MOTHER THINKS THAT AN CHAN IS A GOOD MATCH FOR THAT FOREIGNER? AS IF!
spla
sh
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO TO HELL ALONE
I didn't get one because I wanted it
This is proof that we've passed through the gates of hell..."

unthinkable...
DINNER IS READY!
CHOUJI
IS IT SO FUNNY THAT WE COME IN DIFFERENT SHADES?
.....
I'M SORRY
Family...
I'M SORRY

LOVELESS
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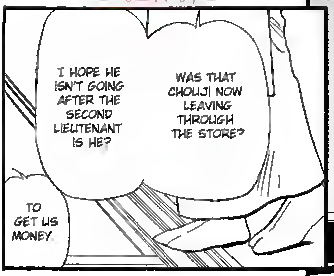
clunk
rattle
YOUR SLEEVE IS IN IT! YOUR SLEEVE!
IT WILL SPILL OVER HERE!
whack
ah!
....
I--I'm sorry...
Chy..Chy ..Chy...C h...
DAMN...
AH...!
gra b
AN-CHAN!

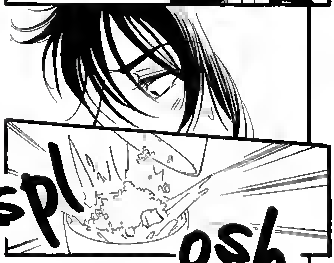
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CALM DOWN IT'S FINE
TAP TAP
IT'S ALL RIGHT NO ONE WILL GET MAD AT YOU
OKAY?

RATTLE
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.

SUCH IS JUST A BIT CLUMSY
BUT I'M NOT WANTED HERE
I'LL COME AND THANK YOU AGAIN SOON, MRS BENIMARU.
MR GODOH, PLEASE VISIT US AGAIN IF IT SUITS YOU
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND THE MOOD HERE IS TERRIBLE NOW...
YOU WILL COME, WON'T YOU? THINK OF IT AS HELPING ME
IT WILL SURELY GET BETTER IF YOU COME.
It's cold.
MONEY
I HAVE SOME SAVINGS
steps steps
YES.


I HOPE HE ISN'T GOING AFTER THE SECOND LIEUTENANT IS HE?
WAS THAT CHOUJI NOW LEAVING THROUGH THE STORE?
TO GET US MONEY

CHOUJI...


spl
osh

AI, I'M GOING OUT
AND I WON'T BE BACK BEFORE MORNING
NOW!? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I have to help An-chan...
If I don't help him...
HE SAYS IT'S FOR MONEY...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO WATCH THE HOUSE...

LOVELESS
Yoshiki Nakamura
OI
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE TOO
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP THE FORT, AI
mumble mumble
SIGH
M
WHAT, WHAT!?
SUGH!
'ARA!'
TO THE GINZA
A HOTEL CALLED
A MAN CALLED YAMASHITA.
AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

I— I'm going too.
You can't, you're in junior high!
IDIOT! YOU HAVE TO STAY AND LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE
COME IN.

....
TELL EVERY-ONE ELSE TOO
HE'S A GOOD CUSTOMER. IF YOU INTERRUPT US I'LL KILL YOU
YOU'VE ARRANGED FOR A GUARD. THAT'S REALLY HOSPITABLE-.
YEAH...
There's no way we can use him as a model for our advertisement
It doesn't matter how handsome he is, he's still a gangster
I must be crazy

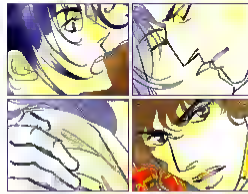
YOU SMELL OF YOUR BATH...
WAIT.
YOU REALLY HAVE MONEY DON'T YOU?
shudder
THERE'S A PRICE FOR THIS
HOW MUCH?
150—NO 200 YEN!
ruffle
I'LL HAVE TO CHECK IF IT'S WORTH THAT MUCH FIRST
YOU HAVE TO PAY IN ADVANCE!
SIGH

This—
this is the first time!
!
..!!
"Chouji"

"Those are the gates to hell...
You must not go through."
"Then why don't you stop!?
Why is it so good to be pinned down under a man!?"
"Because the devil is a terribly handsome man."
BUT, THERE IS ONE CONDITIONS
ALL RIGHT I'M BUYING

Iwa Otoko volume 1 ch4

by: Toribito Hiromi ; ISBN: 4-403-66143-2



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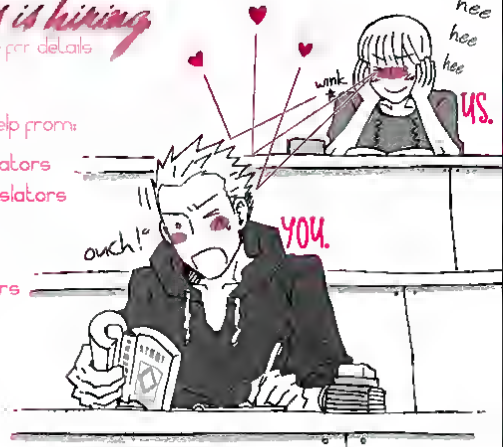


Chapter 5

DOES THIS DESIGN MEAN SOMETHING?
NOT REALLY.
IS THE ONE ON YOUR CHEST A BUTTER-FLY?
I BET EVEN THE TATTOO ARTIST MUST HAVE BEEN CONFUSED
STOP WASTING YOUR BREATH AND LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH

SUCK IT
THIS IS MY BROTHER'S PRETEND IT'S MY BROTHER'S..
DON'T SCRAPE IT WITH YOUR TEETH.

YES, THAT'S IT... WORK ME MORE WITH YOUR TONGUE AND THOSE FULL LIPS OF YOURS
CHOUJI
yank
I... I CAN'T...
THIS GUY'S HUNG LIKE A HORSE!
OUCH!!
TAK.
THUD!!

SCHLOOP
IT'S JUST SOME FUNORI* DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT♡
Haa Haa
WH... WHAT'S THIS!?
*see notes
GRAB
MAN, YOU'RE NOISY
W-WAIT WAIT!!
Well whatever
THE MERCHANDISE FROM YOUR SHOP...
Ugh
LET ME HEAR YOUR CONDITIONS FIRST!! IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I WON'T CONSENT!!
KICK KICK KICK

I'M GONNA BUY 200 YEN WORTH OF IT FOR SANKIROU
I'LL TALK IT OVER WITH THE BOSS
!?
I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T LET THE PROSTI-TUTES WEAR THEM
WE'LL HAVE THE MEN WHO COME TO THE SHOP WEAR THEM AS LOUNGEWEAR
AH...!
IF THEY ACTUALLY WEAR THEM HERE AND LIKE THEM, THEN IT WILL BE EASIER FOR THEM TO GO TO YOUR SHOP AND BUY THEM.
EVEN IN YOSHIWARA, THIS PLACE IS A TOP CLASS SHOP. YOU CAN EXPECT NEW CLIENTS
AFTER ALL, SINCE THE OLD DAYS OF EDO,
ALL THE NEW TRENDS HAVE STARTED IN YOSHIWARA.

TW-TWENTY TIMES!?
AND THEN, YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE 20 TIMES
Kiss!
DID YOU SERIOUSLY INTEND TO TAKE 200 YEN IN JUST ONE NIGHT? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST AN AMATEUR
Hey now...
NOT TO MENTION, YOU'RE A MAIDEN, RIGHT?
10 YEN ISN'T A BAD PRICE IF I CAN GET TO FULLY ENJOY THIS FINE JEWEL ALL NIGHT LONG
BUT WELL,
DON'T SLEEP WITH OTHER MEN EXCEPT ME
AND ONE MORE THING
YOU ASSHOLE
IT'S NOT LIKE THE MONEY WILL COME OUT OF YOUR OWN POCKET..
EH..
Ba-Dump

IN REALITY, THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THIS,
WHAT, SO THAT'S THE REASON?
Obviously you can't do it with female prostitutes either
THIS SHOP'S TOO FUSSY ABOUT STD'S SO DON'T BRING ANY IN HERE
I WANT TO SLEEP WITH
I'LL MAKE AS MUCH USE OF YOU AS POSSIBLE, YOU SCUM.
IN FACT, IT ISN'T A BAD PLAN
IF YOU AGREE, CAN YOU PUT YOUR SEAL HERE?

Sign. Ishikawa

GOOD MORNING, KAYO-CHAN. HAVE MY BROTHERS COME BACK FROM FUNO RAISING?
OH, GOOD MORNING, AI-SAN
bow
MA'AM, I MADE ODIYA* PLEASE HELP YOURSELF.
AAH YES
UHM NO, NOT YET..
OH I SEE
I'LL PREPARE YOUR FOOD RIGHT AWAY
*see notes
MA! DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE THE WHOLE TIME!?
I'LL WAIT FOR THEM, SO GO SLEEP
YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, DON'T YOU?
HOW COULD I GO AT SUCH A TIME?
I stitched in some cotton padding so wear this one.
I DID SLEEP A LITTLE
"A little"?
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
SUOU'S LATE TOO..
NORMALLY, HE SHOULD HAVE COME BACK LONG AGO

WHAT?
AH
A CAR JUST STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE?
THIS SMELL...!
AI, WHEN YOSHI-SAN COMES, TELL HIM TO PREPARE 200 YEN WORTH OF MERCHANDISE AND SEND IT TO SANKIROU
INCLUDE NAGAJUBAN, HITOE, HAORI AND OBI TOO*
BROTHER CHOU!
CHOUJI!
WHAT HAPPENED!? ARE YOU HURT SOMEWHERE...?
IT'S NOTHING
KEEP IT DOWN PLEASE
200 YEN!? BUT YOU SAID NOT TO SELL TO THE PROSTITUTES
I'LL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION LATER
AI! PLEASE HEAT THE WATER FIRST
*SEE NOTES

...YOU SILLY CHILD, WHAT CRAZY THINGS DID YOU DO
WHERE'S MY BROTHER...? IS HE STILL SLEEPING?
HE WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU A WHILE AGO.
I SEE... SO WE PASSED EACH OTHER.
WELL, THAT'S JUST FINE THOUGH
PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM HIM...
EVEN THOUGH WE CAME HERE, I STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT SHOP?
I SHOULD HAVE OBJECTED MORE EARNESTLY TO OUR NEW ADDRESS
THE BOSS OF SANKIDOU WAS A WOMANIZER THROUGH AND THROUGH, SO CHOUJI'S PARTNER MUST HAVE PROBABLY BEEN THAT BODYGUARD

YEEES, COMING..
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME! IT'S GODOU
IRK IRK
AT ANY RATE, SUOU'S LATE!
AND I TOLD HIM TO GIVE ME A PHONE CALL WHEN HE STAYS OVER...
SNAP
WHOA!!
TUMBLE!!
slide slide
OOUCH~~
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, BENIMARU-SAN?

.....
BAD OMEN
Ohoho, how embarr-assing!
OH, OH MY, SECOND LIEUTENANT! IT'S NOTHING THE STRAP OF MY SANDAL SIMPLY-
BENIMARU-SAN?
HUH!?
Oh, I came to drop off some provisions.
SECOND LIEUTENANT, I'M BEGGING YOU!! GO RIGHT NOW TO A RYOUTEI* IN GINZA CALLED "ARAI" AND PICK SUOU UP
VARIOUS THINGS HAP-PENED SINCE THAT EVENT LAST NIGHT
RIGHT NOW!!
*see notes
...WELL, OKAY I'M FREE ANYWAY.
I got no idea what's happening though.
WAIT A MINUTE!
OH, THE ADDRESS! I'LL GO FETCH THE ADDRESS (FROM THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY).
THERE'S NO WAY A LOVE INN* WOULD TELL YOU ABOUT THE GUESTS' MOVEMENTS!
DO YOU HAVE A TELEPHONE? WE SHOULD CONFIRM FIRST-..
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

HOW DARE HE CAUSE BENIMARU-SAN TO WORRY SO MUCH?
I DON'T KNOW WHICH MADAMME HE'S GETTING INTIMATE WITH, BUT I'M GOING TO SHAKE HIM OUT OF BED
AND TO IMAGINE I WENT TO HIS HOUSE TODAY SPECIFICALLY TO ORDER A SUIT.
CLOP
CLOP
IF HE PUT ON A SPOILT ACT WITH THAT SWEET FACE OF HIS, HE COULD DECEIVE ANY WOMAN
IT WAS ALSO STUPID OF ME TO THINK THAT I SHOULD TRY TO SUPPORT THEM FINANCIALLY EVEN A LITTLE BIT.
IRKIRK
IRK
spin
spin
spin
I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PARENTS RAISED HIM TO HAVE SUCH A SLOPPY WAY OF EATING... OH WAIT, THAT WOULD BE BENIMARU-SAN
gasp!
IS IT BECAUSE OF MY LACK OF SLEEP?
— WHY AM I GETTING SO WORKED UP?

SUOU, WAKE UP
SUOU, SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE FROM YOUR HOUSE CAME TO PICK YOU UP
WHAAT!?
AS PUNISHMENT FOR GIVING AWAY WHERE YOU WERE GOING, I'M GOING TO LET THEM SEE YOU IN THIS STATE
IS IT MA? IT'S NOT LIKE HER
No thanks!
It's your damn fault anyway, you old coot
BEING SEEN IN THIS STATE IS GONNA BE PRETTY HARSH, EVEN IF IT'S MY MA WHO'S A FORMER OIRAN*
*see notes
EXCUSE ME
SHOCK!
WELL, EXCUSE US FOR BEING SHABBY
Just untie me already!
YOU'LL MAKE A BETTER LIVING THAN YOU WOULD WORKING FOR A SHABBY DRY GOODS STORE
WHAT DO YOU SAY, WHY DON'T YOU ENTER THE SECRET CLUB TOGETHER WITH ME?
YOU WERE SO INTO IT, SO I ALSO GOT CARRIED AWAY AND BECAME ENTRANCED
SORRY FOR THE WAIT
..I ALSO WANT TO GET IN THE BATH ALREADY
You freaking went by yourself
MASTER, EXCUSE ME..
HM?
..OH, THAT IS...
FINE, LET THEM IN

WH-
WHY IS THE SECOND LIEUTENANT HERE!?

...AND TO THINK I WAS SUPPOSED TO RETIRE AND GO TO BRITAIN IN ABOUT ONLY TWO YEARS...
E- BUT AT THIS POINT...!
AT WORST, I COULD EVEN BE LED BEFORE THE FIRING SQUAD IN ORDER TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT AFTER HAVING SEEN HIM IN SUCH AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT!
MARQUIS FUJIISAWA!? WH- WHAT KIND OF SITUATION DID I GET MYSELF IN...!
THIS IS BAD! THE MARQUIS HAS GREAT INFLUENCE ON THE TOP BRASS OF THE ARMY
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Geh!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ANYONE WOULD GET ANGRY IF ANOTHER MAN WALKED IN ON THEM
DAMN, IF THE GEEZER GETS ANGRY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET MY MONEY!
AS IF LAST NIGHT'S MESSY DINNER WASN'T EMBARRASSING ENOUGH
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THE SECOND LIEUTENANT OF ALL PEOPLE!?
Ugh when I move the ropes bite into my skin
H- HOW DID IT BECOME LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE GODOU-KUN FROM THE ARMY, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN
I WAS TOLD SOMEONE FROM SUOU'S HOME CAME AND THAT'S WHY I LET YOU IN THE ROOM BUT,
WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH HIM?

FWO
FWO
FWO
JUST AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM A FORMER OIRAN. EVEN THE REPUTEDLY STRAIGHT-LACED "RED DEMON" WAS CAUGHT BY HER WILES?
YES SIR.
OH, SO YOU KNOW BENI-MARU?
I- I AM AN ACQUAIN-TANCE OF HIS MOTHER
SHE WAS CONCERNED, AS HER SON HAD NOT RETURNED HOME SINCE LAST NIGHT
AND I WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR HIM IN HER STEAD
SO I TAKE IT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PAR-TICULAR IN-TEREST IN SUOU?
OF COURSE I DO NOT.

...THAT'S ONLY NATURAL
FROM THE START, I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE WITH THE SECOND LIEUTENANT, RIGHT?
I'M RE-TURNING THIS!
WHY AM I GETTING DISAPPOINTED?
SORRY, MA. LOOKS LIKE IT'S HOPELESS, ONCE AGAIN
AH... THAT WAS A SHORT-LIVED ROMANCE
EVEN THOUGH I WAS THINKING THAT MAYBE I COULD LOVE HIM MORE THAN MY LITTLE BROTHER...

WHA...!?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING ANYWHERE TOGETHER WITH THIS DIRTY FOREIGNER
I'LL GIVE MA A CALL, SO HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE BY YOURSELF
tok
BUT HONESTLY, I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT JUST BEING SEPARATED FROM HIM LIKE THAT
WELL, IT ISN'T LIKE HE'S OFFICIALLY MY LOVER,
YOU WERE JUST ON TIME GO HOME, SUOU
I'LL BRING YOU YOUR MONEY NOW-
ARE YOU TRYING TO INSULT ME?
I'M SAYING I DON'T WANNA BE USED FOR YOU TO CURRY SOME OTHER WOMAN'S FAVOUR, YOU LECHER!

IN ANY CASE, I'M JUST A WHORE WHO REJOICES WHEN SCREWED BY MEN
I DO HAVE AN OIRAN'S BLOOD RUNNING IN MY VEINS AFTER ALL
WHY WOULD I BE HAPPY BEING ESCORTED HOME BY A MAN WHO'S NOT DOING IT WILLINGLY?
SLEEPING ALONE SUITS A BOORISH MAN, MR SOLDIER
GO HOME AND FLOG YOUR LOG!
IF YOU WANT ME TO COME AT ANY COST...
——!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU ANGRY?
gets up
BUMP

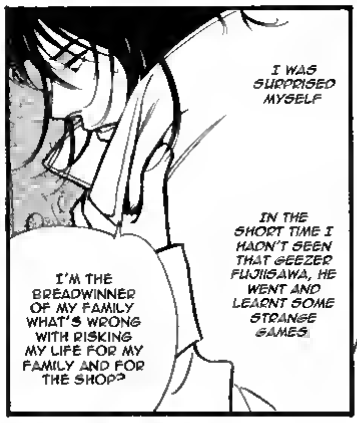
KISS MY FEET AND LICK MY THIGHS!
I'LL COME BACK HOME WITH YOU THEN
WHAT'S WRONG, MR. SECOND LIEUTENANT?
CAN'T DO IT?
PULL

OUCH!
THUD!
UNSHEATH
CLINK!
SNAP

AH...
FLAP!
Lift
snap
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!
I'LL COME BACK LATER TO PICK UP HIS FEE AND HIS THINGS
Put me down you idiot!
Stop struggling. You'll fall down
MASTER
LET THEM BE

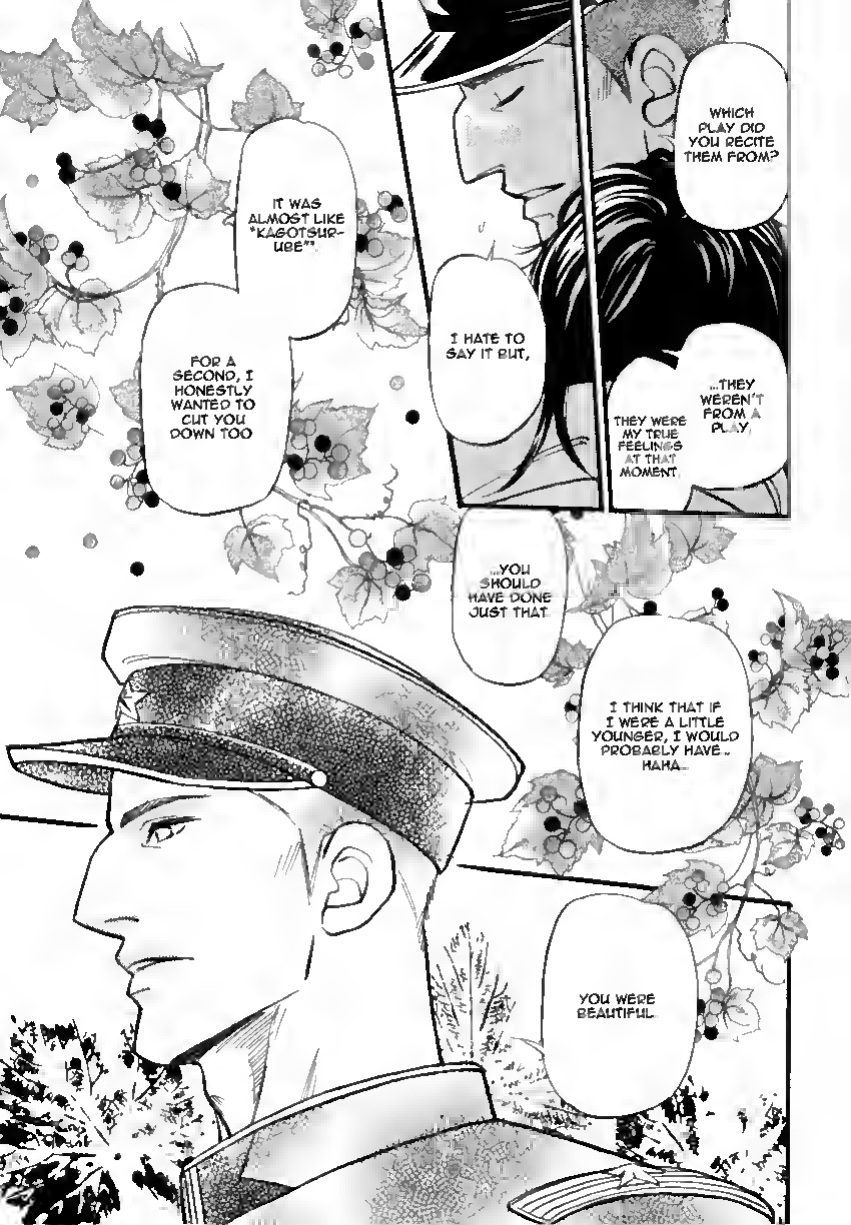
YES
RIGHT, HASHIBARA?
IT JUST ADDED TO MY ENJOYMENT
THEY SHOWED ME AN INTERESTING SIDE-SHOW IN THE END
CLOP
I'LL BUY YOU A KIMONO SET SOMEWHERE, SO BEAR WITH IT A LITTLE LONGER
ARE YOU COLD?
Ach-oo!
CLOP
CLOP

AH...
..WHAT?
..SUOU
CLOP
CLOP


I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF
IN THE SHORT TIME I HADN'T SEEN THAT GEEZER FUJIISAWA, HE WENT AND LEARNT SOME STRANGE GAMES
I'M THE BREADWINNER OF MY FAMILY WHAT'S WRONG WITH RISKING MY LIFE FOR MY FAMILY AND FOR THE SHOP?

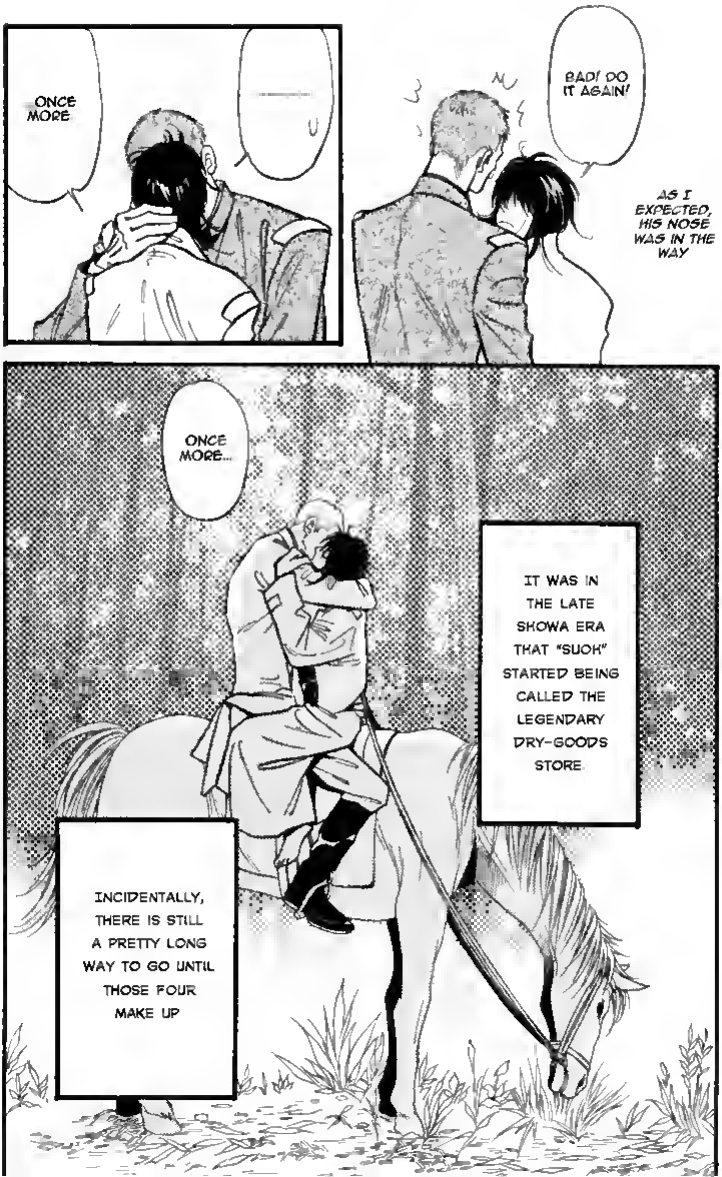
THOSE CAUSTIC WORDS YOU SAID BEFORE..

IT'S THE FIRST TIME THE SECOND LIEUTENANT CALLED MY NAME...
IF IT'S MONEY YOU NEED, I'LL GIVE YOU A LOAN WITHOUT INTEREST, SO STOP DOING SUCH FOOLISH THINGS
IF YOU KEEP ON DOING SUCH THINGS, NO MATTER HOW MANY BODIES YOU HAVE, THEY WON'T BE ENOUGH


WHICH PLAY DID YOU RECITE THEM FROM?
...THEY WEREN'T FROM A PLAY.
THEY WERE MY TRUE FEELINGS AT THAT MOMENT.
I HATE TO SAY IT BUT,
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE "KAGOTSURUBE"
FOR A SECOND, I HONESTLY WANTED TO CUT YOU DOWN TOO
...YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE JUST THAT.
I THINK THAT IF I WERE A LITTLE YOUNGER, I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE.. HAHA...
YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL.

NO, WRONG!
UHM... I MEANT TO SAY YOU WERE SO MANLY!
SOMEHOW, THAT'S THE IMPRESSION I GOT!
...SO HE DOESN'T HATE ME?
U- UP 'TIL NOW, I WAS PREOCCUPIED BY YOUR APPEARANCE AND UNDERESTIMATED YOU GREATLY.
I AM SORRY.
IT WAS MY BAD.
THEN, SHALL I HAVE YOU APOLOGIZE, SECOND LIEUTENANT GODOU?
HERE GOES NOTHING.
KISS ME.
WHA-!
TH-THAT'S A BIT...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

I know that
IT'S COLD, SO HURRY UP
THE RELIGIOUS COMMANDMENTS FORBID ME FROM PERPETRATING HOMOSEXUAL ACTS
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME
Wure-
Eh!?
IF IT'S BAD, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN
THE SECOND LIEUTENANT'S KISS...


ONCE MORE
BAD! DO IT AGAIN!
AS I EXPECTED, HIS NOSE WAS IN THE WAY
ONCE MORE...
IT WAS IN THE LATE SHOWA ERA THAT "SUOH" STARTED BEING CALLED THE LEGENDARY DRY-GOODS STORE
INCIDENTALLY, THERE IS STILL A PRETTY LONG WAY TO GO UNTIL THOSE FOUR MAKE UP

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

Afterword

Hello, this is Toribito Hiromi. This is my first tankoubon with Shinsokan. This story is a period drama, and in addition, I only began drawing it because I WANTED TO DRAW MEN IN KIMONO, but I ended up having a really tough time together with my assistant doing background research and gathering photographic material every time. It'd be true if I said that it was fun, but it was also really tough..... In general, it will be set in the Taisho era, but since the main premise is bogus anyway, there will be no Great Kanto Earthquake, no Rice Riots, and no democracy. Well, I think it would be good if you could enjoy the flirting of these four men. I would be glad if you could let me hear your thoughts and how you wish the story to unfold from now on. Well then, let's meet again in the next volume.

Toribito Hiromi Home Page
http://www.toribito.jp/

NOTES

Page 5: Funori is a sort of red algae. It is used as food, as an assortment to sashimi, but more often, it is turned into a paste and used as glue, even though its adhesive strength isn't too high.
Page 10: Ojiya is rice gruel containing vegetables, fish, etc., and seasoned with miso or soy sauce.
Page 11: *Hitoe* is an unlined kimono. A *nagajuban* is a kimono-shaped robe worn by both men and women beneath the main outer garment. Since silk kimono are delicate and difficult to clean, the nagajuban helps to keep the outer kimono clean by preventing contact with the wearer's skin. The *haori* is a hip- or thigh-length kimono-like jacket, which adds formality to an outfit. The *obi* is the sash worn with kimono.
Page 14: a *ryoutei* is a traditional Japanese restaurant, especially a luxurious one. As for "love inn", it's *tsurekomiyado* in japanese, and it's something like a traditional love hotel. Apparently it's the forerunner of today's love hotels.
Page 17: *Oiran* were courtesans in Japan. The oiran were considered a type of *yujo* "woman of pleasure" or prostitute. However, they are distinguished from the yūjo in that they were entertainers, and many became celebrities of their times outside the pleasure districts.
Page 29: *Kagotsurube Sato no Eizame* is a kabuki play, about a rich merchant from the countryside Jirouzaemon, who goes to Edo and falls in love with Yoshiwara courtesan Yatsuhashi. Even though his face is deformed by chickenpox marks, he visits her often and comes to want to buy her contract and make her his official mistress. However, Yatsuhashi has a lover who doesn't like the fact that she sees Jirouzaemon and that he intends to free her. Him and her boss convince Yatsuhashi to stop seeing Jirouzaemon. The last time they meet, Yatshuhashi treats Jirouzaemon coldly and says that she refuses to see him again, even though she doesn't really dislike him. Jirouzaemon says that he understands and leaves again for the countryside. Some time later, he visits Yatsuhashi. Everyone thinks he came to restore their relation, but when they are left alone, Jirouzaemon pours sake for her and tells her to drink, for this will be her last. He then killed her and a servant girl with his sword. Afterwards he tried to escape, but was caught soon after.)

Iro Otoko

彩おとこ

by Toribito Hiromi

CHAPTER 5

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